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State Superintendent of Public Instruction

**CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT
OF
EDUCATION**

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**READING EXCELLENCE ACT
Local Reading Improvement Grant
Application
Due date - May 15, 2001**

February 15, 2001

TO: Superintendents of Eligible Districts
Directors of Curriculum and Instruction in Eligible Districts
County Superintendents of Schools
County Directors of Curriculum and Instruction

FROM: Joanne Mendoza, Deputy Superintendent
Curriculum and Instructional Leadership Branch

SUBJECT: NEW LOCAL READING IMPROVEMENT GRANT OPPORTUNITY

I am very pleased to inform you that California has received a \$60 million federal grant to provide two exciting grant programs in the area of K-3 reading. The accompanying materials describe the first of these grant programs, the Local Reading Improvement Grant, which provides funding for a comprehensive reading improvement program primarily for Program Improvement schools. Not all districts are eligible for these grants. If your district receives this mailing, it is highly probable that your district and specific schools are eligible. A final list of eligible schools and districts, incorporating recent API data, will be posted on California's Reading Excellence Act website [www.cde.ca.gov/ci/rea] no later than March 1, 2001. The list will specify that it is the final list.

By now you should have received a separate letter informing you of district level information sessions to be held in seven locations between February 26 and March 6. If you have not received information about these sessions within the last two weeks, please call our Reading/Language Arts Leadership Office at (916) 323-6269 to obtain a faxed copy.

You will receive information about the second grant opportunity, for Tutorial Assistance Grants, also focused on reading, by approximately March 7, 2001. That program will be less comprehensive but provides a structure and funding for a well-planned tutoring program. The due date for both applications will be May 15, 2001.

I hope you will seriously consider attending our information sessions and applying to participate in these programs. We believe that both programs will contribute strongly to improvement in student achievement in reading.